

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
receiving a packet from a first network device to a second network device,  
wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link,  
the first network device and the second network device each having a  
version of a ~~dynamic, intradomain, distributed, flat, single path, distance~~  
~~vector~~-routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's  
routing protocol version;  
determining whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the  
same as the second network device's routing protocol version;~~and~~  
verifying the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same as  
the second network device's routing protocol version;  
choosing the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second  
network devices; and  
configuring the link such that the routing protocol ~~versions~~version is the same for  
~~of the first and second network devices~~are the same.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the version of the routing protocol of  
each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the method  
further comprises detecting the first network device's routing protocol type, and  
determining whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same  
as the second network device's routing protocol type.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising configuring the  
link such that the routing protocol ~~types~~version of the first and second network  
devices ~~are the same~~ comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred  
routing protocol version.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the routing protocol is comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the version of RIP is comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second network device-devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
determining whether a first network device's routing protocol version is the same  
as a second network device's routing protocol version;  
verifying the first network device's routing protocol version being the same as the  
second network device's routing protocol version; and  
configuring a link including a-the first network device and a-the second network device, each network device including a-dynamic, intradomain,  
distributed, flat, single path, distance vector the same routing protocol  
having a version and a type, such that the routing protocol versions of the  
first and second network devices are the same and the types of the routing  
protocol versions are the same.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the routing protocol is comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the version of the RIP is comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second network device-devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

Claims 13-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus comprising a machine accessible~~ A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a set of ~~containing~~ instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to ~~perform operations comprising:~~  
~~receiving-receive~~ a packet from a first network device to a second network device, wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first network device and the second network device each having a version of a ~~dynamic, intradomain, distributed, flat, single path, distance vector~~ routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing protocol version,  
~~determining-determine~~ whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the same as the second network device's routing protocol version; ~~and~~  
verify the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version;  
choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second network devices; and  
~~configuring-configure~~ the link such that the routing protocol ~~versions-version~~ is the same for ~~of~~ the first and second network devices ~~are the same~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the version of the routing protocol of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the ~~method further comprises~~ set of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to ~~detecting~~ detect the first network device's routing protocol type, and to ~~determining~~ determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.
17. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 16, ~~further comprising configuring~~ wherein the set of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to configure the link such that the routing protocol ~~types~~ version of the first and second network devices ~~are the same~~ comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol version.
18. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the routing protocol ~~is~~ comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
19. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the version of RIP ~~is~~ comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.
20. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second ~~network device~~ devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.
21. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus comprising a machine-accessible~~ A machine-readable medium having thereon a set ~~containing~~ instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to ~~perform operations comprising:~~

determine whether a first network device's routing protocol version is the same as  
a second network device's routing protocol version;  
verify the first network device's routing protocol version being the same as the  
second network device's routing protocol version; and  
~~configuring~~ configure a link including ~~a~~ the first network device and ~~a~~ the second  
network device, each network device including a ~~dynamic, intradomain,~~  
~~distributed, flat, single path, distance vector~~ routing protocol having a  
version and a type, such that the routing protocol versions of the first and  
second network devices are the same and the types of the routing protocol  
versions are the same.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 21,  
wherein the routing protocol ~~is~~ comprises Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
23. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 22,  
wherein the version of the RIP is one of Version 1 or Version 2.
24. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 23,  
wherein the version of the RIP of each network device is one of a triggered type  
or a periodic type.

Claims 25-26 (Cancelled)

27. (New) An apparatus, comprising:  
a second network device to receive a packet from a first network device, wherein  
the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first  
network device and the second network device each having a version of  
routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing  
protocol version; and

a processor coupled with the first and second network devices, the processor to  
determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is  
the same as the second network device's routing protocol version,  
verify the first network device's routing protocol version as being the same  
as the second network device's routing protocol version,  
choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and  
second network devices, and  
configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the  
first and second network devices.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the version of the routing protocol of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the processor is further to detect the first network device's routing protocol type, and to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.
29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the processor is further to configure the link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second network devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol version.
30. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
31. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.

32. (New) A system, comprising:

a second network device to receive a packet from a first network device, wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first network device and the second network device each having a version of routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing protocol version;

a processor coupled with the storage medium and the first and second network devices, the processor to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the same as the second network device's routing protocol version, verify the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version, choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second network devices, and configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the first and second network devices; and

a storage medium coupled with the processor, the storage medium to store instructions to facilitate the processor to determine, verify, choose, and configure.

33. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the version of the routing protocol of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the processor is further to detecting the first network device's routing protocol type,

and to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the processor is further to configure the link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second network devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol version.
35. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
36. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.